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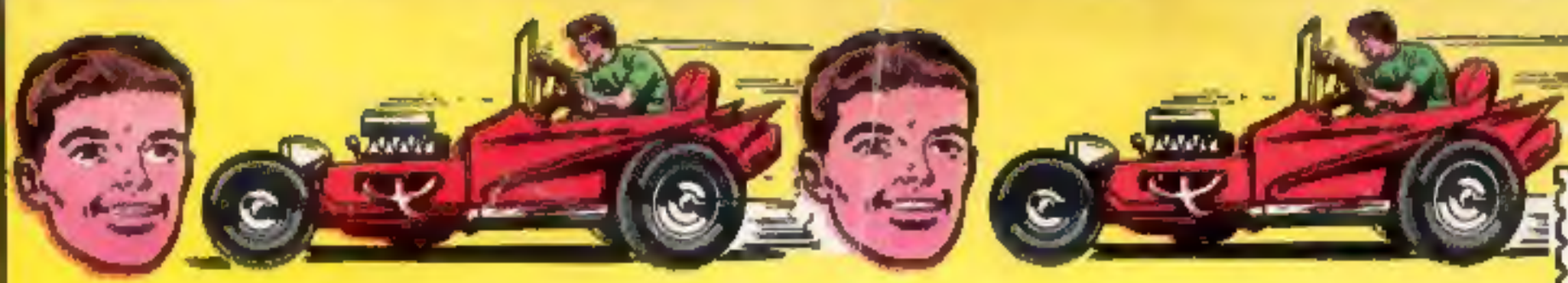

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HOT RODS and RACING CARS ... with Clint Curtis and the Road Knights

NO ONE TREATS A CAR AS ROUGH AS THE "CAR HATER!"

IN 1961, AN AMERICAN DRIVER NAMED JIM HURLEY WAS DRIVING THE FIRST AMERICAN CAR TO QUALIFY IN THE GRAND PRIX OF ITALY BEING RUN AT MONZA, ITALY! IN THAT YEAR, THE AUTOMOBILE CLUB OF MILAN DECIDED TO USE THE 10 KILOMETER COURSE AT MONZA...AND HURLEY, AN AMERICAN DIRT TRACK AND INDIANAPOLIS ACE, WAS HEADING INTO THE DANGEROUS TURN ITALIANS NAMED THE CURVETTA WHEN HURLEY'S FRONT TIRE BLEW! HE HIT THE FENCE AT 150 MPH!

HURLEY WAS LEADING....TOUGH LUCK!

RETURN TO MONZA

D-80

NICHOLAS ALASCIA

I CAN WALK ALL RIGHT!

SI, SIGNORE....BUT FIRST IL DOCTORE WILL EXAMINE YOU!

HOT RODS & RACING CARS

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nomscans

JIM HURLEY'S BOY WAS WITH HIM THAT SEPTEMBER, 1961 ....HE WAS A GOOD MECHANIC AND EARNED HIS WAY WITH THE HURLEY RACE TEAM! HE WAS HEARTBROKEN AT THE TIME IT HAPPENED....

I CHECKED THE TIRES, DAD! LOOKED LIKE THE TREAD PEELED OFF BEFORE IT BLEW! DID YOU FEEL ANYTHING?

HAPPENED TOO FAST, NEIL! ANYTHING LEFT OF THE CAR?

NO, SIR! WE'LL HAVE TO BUILD A NEW ONE BUT WE'LL BE BACK NEXT YEAR, WON'T WE, DAD?

BUT JIM HURLEY'S RACING DAYS WERE OVER! HE HAD A STIFF ELBOW SO HE HAD TO BE CONTENT WITH RUNNING HIS BODYSHOP AND CAR RENTAL SERVICE IN A SUBURB OF LOS ANGELES...BUT NEIL CARRIED ON IN HIS PLACE!

THE FIFTY MILER WILL BE RUGGED, NEIL! THINK YOU'LL WIN?

I HOPE SO, DAD!

VROOOOM

HE'S GOOD, MIGHTY GOOD! WITH GOOD MACHINERY, HE CAN DRIVE WITH THE BEST!

VROOOOM

JIM HURLEY DOESN'T HAVE THE KIND OF MONEY IT TAKES TO FIELD A CAR IN THE BIG TIME.... BUT HE KNOWS THE BOYS WITH THE BIG LOOT!

HE'S A CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK, JIM! COUNT US IN!

HE DOESN'T BEAT UP A CAR THE WAY YOU USED TO, JIM! MY GUESS IS HE'LL DO EVEN BETTER THAN YOU IN THE LONG GRAND PRIX EVENTS!

ZOOOOOM

THANKS, BOYS! I'LL CALL DETROIT AND ORDER TWO OF THE OVERHEAD CAM ENGINES THEY'RE MAKING. WE'LL USE MY CHASSIS DESIGN BUT YOU MEN WILL GET A LOOK AT EVERY-THING WE'RE DOING!

WHILE JIM HURLEY AND HIS MECHANICS WORK ON THE GRAND PRIX CAR, NEIL GOES ON DRIVING ....AT DARLINGTON, THE SOUTHERN 500 IS A CHALLENGE! NEIL HURLEY PREPARES THE STOCK CAR HE'S GOING TO DRIVE.....

THIS IS HAIRY....WE'RE DOING OVER ONE NINETY IN THE STRAIGHTS!

426 C.I.

DODGE

72

COULDN'T BEAT RALPH BETTY... HE'S A TOUGH DRIVER IN A FAST CAR!

VROOOM VROOOOM

FORD

BACK TO LOS ANGELES.... TO JIM HURLEY'S GARAGE... WITH SECOND PLACE MONEY AND A BURNING INTEREST IN WHAT WAS TAKING PLACE IN THE BACK ROOM!

TWO OTHER DRIVERS HAVE ASKED FOR CHASSIS, NEIL! LOOKS LIKE WE CAN'T LOSE ON THIS GRAND PRIX CAR!

LET'S WAIT AND SEE, DAD.

NEIL'S ABOUT THE HAPPIEST RACE CAR DRIVER IN THE WHOLE WORLD RIGHT NOW! LISTEN TO THAT EXHAUST.... SHE'S SWINGIN' SWEEET!

THEN, IN FEBRUARY, THE ENGINE IS PRONOUNCED READY, THE SUSPENSION IS FINISHED, AND THE ALUMINUM SKIN IS ON! THEY TAKE IT TO RIVERSIDE TO RUN THE BUGS OUT OF IT....

LOOK OUT, FERRARI, PORSCHE, FORD, AND EVERYONE ELSE...THE HURLEY SPECIAL WILL TAKE YOU ALL!

VARROOOOM

CONTINUED AFTER FOLLOWING PAGE

THROUGH THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, ADJUSTMENTS WERE MADE...THE SUSPENSION STIFFENED AND GRADUALLY ALL THE BUGS ARE ELIMINATED.

HE'S GETTING BETTER ALL THE TIME! HE'LL TAME THAT MONZA COURSE WHEN WE GET TO ITALY!

ZOOOM

3

THREE WEEKS LATER

JUST DRIVE AROUND SLOWLY, NEIL! GET ACQUAINTED WITH THE TRACK A LITTLE....

3

3

LATER TODAY YOU AND I WILL *WALK* THE TRACK....YOU'VE GOT TO KNOW EVERY HEAVE, BUMP, AND PEBBLE ON THE TRACK!

OKAY, DAD.

THE MATRA AND FERRARI TEAMS HAVE BEEN HERE FOR A WEEK! THEY'LL EACH ENTER FOUR CARS... THEY'LL BE TOUGH TO BEAT!

VROOOM

BY LATE AFTERNOON, NEIL'S OVERHEAD-CAMMED MILL IS SCREAMING... HE'S TAKING THE TURNS IN HIGH SPEED DRIFTS, HOLDING HIS SPEED UNTIL HE'S ALMOST IN THE TURNS....

SIGNORE HURLEY DRIVES LIKE HIS FATHER...WHICH WAS MUCH TOO FAST FOR MONZA!

VROOOM

3

ALMOST 200 MILES AN HOUR...HAVE TO WATCH THE OTHER CARS....I SAW WHAT HAPPENED AT INDIANAPOLIS IN 1966 WHEN THEY HAD THE BIG PILE-UP!

NOW, EVERYTHING IS DONE...ALL THEY CAN DO IS WAIT FOR THE RACE IN THE SEPTEMBER SUNSHINE HERE AT MONZA!

I'M NOT GOING TO TELL YOU TO BE CAREFUL, NEIL...NOBODY DRIVING SCARED OR CAREFUL CAN WIN THE GRAND PRIX D'ITALIA! JUST STAY AWAKE AND WATCH FOR THE OTHER GUYS!

TAKE IT SLOW, KID...IT'S 430 KILOMETERS...THAT'S ABOUT 268 MILES!

I'LL DRIFT ON THIS JOKER AWHILE...SAVE GAS....

THEN, THE SIGNAL IS GIVEN... THE DRIVERS SPRINT FOR THEIR CARS...FANTASTIC ENGINES THUNDER INTO LIFE ....AND THEY'RE OFF!

VROOOOM

VROOOOM

THE AUTOMOBILE CLUB OF MILAN DESIGNED THIS TRACK FOR HIGH SPEED RACING WITH 38 DEGREE BANKED TURNS.... LONG STRAIGHTS LEADING INTO ROLLER-COASTER TURNS!

VROOOOOM

GO, NEIL ...TWO MORE LAPS!

GOT TO BEAT THE ITALIAN ACE INTO THE NEXT TURN....THERE'S ONE SAFE LINE THROUGH IT!

VRROOOM

THEN, THE CHECKERED FLAG WHIPS DOWN...AND AFTER EIGHT LONG YEARS A DRIVER NAMED HURLEY WINS THE GRAND PRIX DE MONZA!

BRAVO, SIGNORES ...BRAVISSIMO!

LOOKS LIKE THEY WANTED US TO WIN DAD!

YOU BEAT THE FERRARI AND THE MATRA, SON....IF AN ITALIAN DIDN'T WIN IT, THEY'D RATHER SEE US YANKS WIN IT!

WAITES

END

The TWITCHBACK TERROR

THIS IS THE TWITCHBACK MOUNTAIN ROAD AND ME AND CUZZIN' GEORGE ARE RUNNIN' IT AGAIN FOR THE LAST TIME BEFORE I LET UNCLE SAM DRAG ME A-KICKIN' AND A-SQUEELIN' INTO THE U.S. ARMY! MY WEDGE-HEAD FORD AIN'T AS PURTY AS GEORGE'S BEAT-UP STINGRAY BUT I KNOW HOW TO EASE AROUND THEM HAIRPIN TURNS A MITE BETTER'N HE DOES!

OH, MAMA...I ALMOST TOOK *THE SHORTEST* WAY DOWN T' THE VALLEY RIGHT THERE!

SCREEEE!

VRROOOM!

VROOOM

I RECKON I WON'T DO MUCH RIDGE-RUNNIN' IN THE YEW ESS ARMY!

VROOOM

HATE T' LEAVE JUST WHEN I GOT THIS IRON TRAINED GOOD!

LIKE ALWAYS, I BEAT CUZZIN GEORGE DOWN OFFA TWITCHBACK...STOPPIN' AT THE BOTTOM TO OPEN THE CHAIN WHICH KEEPS OTHER FOLKS FROM USIN' OUR ROAD!

PRIVATE ROAD KEEP OUT

YOU MUST'VE BEEN HITTIN' A HUNNERD 'N TEN IN SPOTS, FERGIE! DAWG ME IF'N I KIN KEEP MY WHEELS DOWN GOIN' THAT FAST ON THAT ROAD!

THAT'S THE LAST SMILE I WEAR FOR A LONG WHILE! UNCLE SAM MARCHES ME, RUNS ME, DRILLS ME, AN' MAKES ME OVER IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS!

I'M ALL SET FER VIET NAM...ONLY THEY CROSS ME UP AN' I GIT SHIPPED OUT TO EUROPE!

HOW COME EUROPE? THEY AIN'T NO WARS OVER THERE, IS THEY?

NO WARS, BUDDY...WE'LL BE ON MANEUVERS AN' STATIONED MAYBE IN GERMANY! I BROKE THE CRAP GAME AGAIN! LET'S SEE... WHAT'LL I BUY?

THIS IS GERMANY AND I'VE SEEN SOME NICE AUTOMOBILES OVER HERE, LIKE THIS PORSCHE 911...LOOKS LIKE IT CAN HOLD THE ROAD REAL GOOD!

LIKE IT, FERGIE? I JUST WON IT IN THE CRAP GAME!

I NEVER DROVE A CAR WITH ONE O' THEM FLOOR SHIFTS AN' A CLUTCH! YOU DRIVE ME AROUND, FERGIE...OKAY?

I'LL TRY, ACE!

I MEAN, THIS IRON CAN REALLY WIND OUT...AN' IT' S LOTS BETTER THAN THE CAR I DRUV ON TWITCHBACK!

YOU SURE KNOW HOW TUH GIDDYAP A CAR, BUDDY!

I LEARN HOW TO HANDLE THIS BABY...AND THE M.P.S TAKE NOTICE ABOUT THE SECOND WEEK I'M DOIN' IT!

I'M GONNA STOP, ACE...IF I KEEP RUNNIN' THAT BOY BACK THERE MAY GIT HISSELF HURTED!

VROOOOM

VROOM

YOU HAD ME PRUNED, SOLDIER. IF YOU WANT TO TROMP THE HONKER THAT BAD, WHY DON'T YOU GET A PASS DOWN TO THE NURBURGRING AND ENTER THE RACES?

NURBURGRING I'D LIKE TO WATCH 'EM RACE THERE!

ACE LIKES THIS ACTION! HE'S SCHEMING...AND I LIKE HIS SCHEMES.

WHERE'S THE NEXT BIG RACE, HILLBILLY?

THAT PLACE YOU ALWAYS WANTA GO... *MONTE CARLO!*

WE'LL GIT PASSES FOR MONTE CARLO, BUDDY! YOU'D DO GOOD RUNNIN' THIS KIND OF MACHINERY!

MINTEX

SHELL

VROOM

CONTINUED AFTER FOLLOWING PAGE

WE'VE GOT A PASS FOR FIVE DAYS...THE SCENERY IN GERMANY IS REALLY SOMETHIN'...

LOOKA THAT OL' CASTLE!

SHE AIN'T SO OLD!

THE COWS ARE KINDA PUNY IN FRANCE, ACE!

I'D SAY THEY'RE JUST ABOUT *RIGHT*, BUDDY!

THIS IS MONTE CARLO AND THEY'RE GETTING READY TO TEST THE FI CLASS CARS THAT'LL RUN! ACE IS GOING TO GAMBLE... THAT'S HIS THING!

HOWDY, BUD. WANTA GIMME A HAND WITH THIS JACK?

DON'T MIND IF I DO.

25

I GOT A WAY WITH GAS ENGINES...PURTY SOON I'M LEANIN' THE MIXTURE SOME AFTER I FIND A BAD PLUG!

THAT'S IT, FERGIE!

VROOOM

LATER, I MEET CHUCK ALKINS, THE DRIVER....

...FERGIE MEET CHUCK. HE'S PRETTY SHARP AROUND AN ENGINE. I AIN'T SEEN MASTERS' CAR YET. ISN'T HE GONNA RACE?

HELLO, FERGIE. MASTERS IS IN A BIND. A LOCAL JUDGE SLAPPED A LIEN ON HIM...HE OWES SOME BILLS THAT HE CAN'T PAY! HE MAY LOSE THE CAR!

A FEW HOURS LATER, I GO LOOKING FOR ACE... I'VE SEEN ED MASTERS' CAR, A BEAUTY!

I DONE IT AGAIN, PARDNER! I GOT MORE MONEY'N THE COLONEL WILL LET ME SEND HOME! LET'S BUY SOMETHIN' PURTY!

HOW'D YOU LIKE TO GO INTO THE RACIN' CAR BUSINESS, ACE?

CASINO

ONE OF THE RACE CAR OWNERS NEEDS CASH BAD! I WAS THINKIN' ...WE COULD BUY MAYBE A HALF-OWNERSHIP IN IT...OTHERWISE HE'LL LOSE EVERYTHING!

I'LL DO IT, BUDDY...

...IF HE'LL LET *YOU* WHEEL IT IN THE RACE! YOU C'IN DO IT, BUDDY! JUST PRACTICE UP A FEW DAYS!

I'D GIVE MY RIGHT ARM FOR THE CHANCE TO *TRY!*

SO ACE SWINGS THE DEAL AND....

HMMMM....SUDDEN CLUTCH...LOTTA HORSES...

...HERE WE GO!

VROOOMM

I KETCH ON FAST TO THIS KINDA DRIVIN'...AND IN A FEW DAYS I'M STAYIN' FAST AN' FLAT IN THE TIGHT BENDS...

HE'S PRETTY GOOD! WE MAY EVEN WIN THIS THING!

VROOOOM

17

I'M IN IT WITH THE BEST DRIVERS I EVER SEEN EXCEPTIN' FOR MAYBE SPRAGUE DITHERS, THE DEPUTY SHERIFF AT THE COUNTY SEAT! THEY REALLY MOVE!

WIN IT FOR ME, COUNTRY BOY!

VROOOM

BP

26

VROOM

VROOOM

GOT TO TAKE THE BENDS FASTER...GOT TO SAVE THE BRAKES...GOT TO STAY OUTA TROUBLE!

I WIN IT NICE...BUT ACE SELLS THE CAR BACK TO MASTERS WHO CAN AFFORD IT NOW WITH HIS SHARE OF THE PRIZE MONEY!

I SURE WISH WE COULD'VE KEPT THE CAR, ACE! HOW MUCH WE GOT NOW?

NOT A SOU, BUDDY! I BLEW THE WAD IN THE CASINO RIGHT AFTER YOU WON..BUT DON'T WORRY..I'LL WIN SOME MORE NEXT PAYDAY!

VROOOM

17

400KM GERMANY

END

NEAR & FAR IN YOUR CAR

Whenever I return from a trip to the country, I make note of all the dangerous situations I have met on that particular road. Some of them are due to the drivers themselves. Others may be a result of the road conditions. And some, all of us meet time and time again. Half of the trip was on a modern three lane highway - each way. The other half was on a modern two lane highway - each half. Speed limit was 65 miles per hour.

I have learned to be careful when I see a car parked on a shoulder. The driver may wait until your car is near - and then cut in right ahead of you. Why? He may have miscalculated your speed and his starting speed. Or he may just be a careless driver. Now when I see such a situation ahead of me, I shift over to the other lane. This permits him to cut into the road. But this time there was traffic on the lane to my left. So I continued ahead - but carefully - when I saw this parked car. Sure enough, he cut right in ahead of me. I was doing 60 miles per hour. Fortunately for me, the driver in the left hand land knew what to do. He stepped on the gas, and I was able to cut into his lane. If not - we would have had a nasty three car smack-up.

You get a flat tire while driving along the highway. What to do? You can continue on it for some distance until you can pull over to a shoulder in safety. So, what if you did ruin it, the rim and the old tire isn't good forever. Figure out how much a new rim costs. It still is cheaper than spending some months in a hospital. Now let us assume you have done just this. You are sensible. And so was the fellow who had the blow-out on the highway. He went a short distance until he come to a shoulder. Then drove onto it. But what was his next step? He got out of his car on the left side. And was almost tossed to kingdom - come by a speeding driver. Get off on your safety side. And if conditions look unsafe for you to fix your flat, what to do? Put up the distress signal until a police car comes to your aid. And he will call an emergency truck to come and fix that flat. You can also use your flasher and put up the hood of your car to show something is wrong. True, you may be late to your hotel - but that is still better than being killed!

I am driving along the three lane highway. Traffic has been building up. And then I see the sign telling me that the toll gate is one mile ahead and to slow down. Which I do. But there are six toll gates ahead. And cars cut in and out to get to a toll gate which has only a few cars. This is a dangerous situation repeated time and time again. Seems to me the authorities in charge ought to work out a better and safer way. One suggestion is that the three lane go into six lanes two miles before the toll gate. With signs telling you to stay in your lane - or pay a fine. And there should be a patrol to enforce that regulation. A helicopter in contact with a ground patrol car make up an efficient team for safety. And if you get your change from the toll booth man - and drop it to the ground - don't get out of the car. Your life isn't an even exchange for 50c!

When you see a warning sign telling you to reduce your speed to 40 miles per hour or 20 miles per hour - because there is road construction ahead- obey it! I saw a good example of a near tragedy on this trip. The sign said to reduce to 30 miles per hour and to bear left if we wanted to continue on the highway - and not go off at the new exit road. The driver ahead of me was doing at least 65 miles per hour. He didn't slow down at all. And he almost went through the road barricade. He stepped on his brakes and then went into a skid. Maybe his guardian angel was watching him that day. Did he learn a lesson? This I will never know, though I do hope so.

The car on my right was going from one lane to the other. I could see the driver was holding a can in his hand. And drinking either soda or beer. What was I to do? I had two evident choices. Slow down and remain behind him at a good safe distance. Or wait till I thought I was safe - and step on the gas and get way ahead of him. I did the second choice on this trip. And I will never know the contents of that can.

As long as situations repeat themselves on the highway and you know what to do, you thus can reduce the chances of being involved in an accident.

••••••••

CLINT CURTIS HAD ALWAYS **LOVED** CARS, THEY WERE HIS WAY OF LIFE. A PART OF HIM .. SO WHAT COULD CLINT DO WHEN HE MET THE...

CAR HATER

PART I

CLINT HAS JUST STOPPED HIS FIREBIRD IN ONE OF THE SURROUNDING PARKING AREAS OF THE **SEBRING** RACE COURSE... HE OPENS THE LEFT DOOR AND IS ABOUT TO STEP OUT WHEN **SUDDENLY** THE DOOR IS **TORN VIOLENTLY** FROM ITS HINGES!

ZOOM

GOOD GRIEF! WHERE DID **HE** COME FROM?!

WHAP

SCRIPT AND ART
JACK KELLER
LETTERING
RICK KELLER

THAT **CRAZY GOON** MUST BE DOIN' AT LEAST **60** IN A **15** MPH ZONE!

SCREE

OF ALL THE **STUPID STUNTS** I'VE EVER SEEN, YOURS TAKES **FIRST** PLACE! YOU OPENED THAT DOOR RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME!

I **NEVER** SAW YOU COMIN', YOU WERE TRAVELIN' SO **FAST!**

GOODYEAR

RACING TI

MORGA

IT WAS **YOUR FAULT**, CLYDE!

YOU WERE EQUALLY GUILTY AND DON'T CALL ME **CLYDE!**

I CAN CALL YOU ANYTHING I WANT, I'VE GOT A **BLACK** BELT IN **KARATE!**

PARDON ME, IF I DON'T **FAINT** FROM FEAR...

SWISH

NOW, YOU HAVE A ***BLACK EYE*** FROM CURT.S!

I COULD GET UP AND CUT YOU .N HALF, BUT I'VE GOT A ***PRESSING*** BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT... SO I'LL LET YOU OFF ***THIS*** TIME...

ANYTHING YOU SAY...

WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO ABOUT THE ACCIDENT?

NOT A ***THING,*** MISTER AND IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, TAKE ME TO ***COURT!***

I ***DON'T*** LIKE IT, BJT I GUESS I TOO WAS A BIT CARELESS... SO I'LL REPAIR MY FIREBIRD... WHAT ***GRIPES*** ME IS THAT I JUST BOUGHT IT AND I WAS PROUD OF THE WAY IT LOOKED!

WHAT ***ROT!*** YOU ***CAR LOVERS*** MAKE ME SICK! YOU MOAN OVER A HUNK OF TIN LIKE IT WAS A ***WOMAN...*** MY ***ALFA*** COST MORE BREAD THAN YOURS AND I'M NOT ***CRYIN'...*** A CAR'S GOOD FOR ONE THING ONLY AND THAT'S TO DRIVE IT ***FAST!***

BYE,,CHUMP...

GET LOST, WISE GUY...

MOMENTS LATER IN THE PITS CLINT MEETS THE RACING CAR OWNER, RICH, POWERFUL OIL MAGNATE, BUCK BUCKLEY...

YOU'RE LATE, CURTIS...

SORRY, BUT I WAS DETAINED, HAD A ***MINOR*** ACCIDENT!

37

WELL, I LIKE MY DRIVERS TO BE ***PROMPT*** AND NOT ONLY ARE YOU LATE, BUT SO'S YOUR CO-DRIVER, MARTY SNELL... NOW WHERE IN TARNATION IS THAT VARMINT?

HERE I AM, BUCK...

DON'T THINK YOU TWO FELLERS HAVE EVER MET CLINT, MEET MARTY... SAY, ***WHAT IN BLAZES*** ARE YOU GRINNIN' AT, ***MARTY?***

31

'M GRINNIN' BECAUSE ***DID*** MEET THIS JOKER AND THE MEETING WASN'T EXACTLY PLEASANT... ***CLYDE'S*** THE REASON I'M LATE!

WHAT? WELL, I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN YOU TWO BEFORE... YOU'RE BOTH GONNA BE SHARIN' THE SAME CAR FOR 12 HOURS...

LET'S SHAKE... NO HARD FEELIN'S, ***CLYDE!***

THE NAME'S ***CLINT*** AND DON'T YOU FORGET IT, MARTY, ***NOT EVER!***

CONTINUED AFTER FOLLOWING PAGE

PRACTICE SESSIONS WERE COMPLETED AND NOW IT IS TIME FOR THE **GRUELING** 12 HOURS OF **ENDURANCE!**

CURTIS IS WINNING THE FOOT RACE!

EVERY SECOND **COUNTS!** GOT TO GET OFF TO A GOOD **START!**

HA! I'M THE **FIRST** TO PULL OFF THE LINE!

VROOM

IT SAVES A LOT OF MY SWEAT AND WEAR AND TEAR ON THE CAR WHEN I'M OUT IN FRONT AND DON'T HAVE TO BATTLE MY WAY THRU **TRAFFIC!**

MATRA

CLINT WHEELS THE MATRA 360 THRU CORNERS WITH METHODICAL EASE, ***FAST*** BUT NOT ***FURIOUS!***

LOOK AT ***CURTIS GO!*** HE'S GOT A 2 SECOND LEAD AT THE END OF THE FIRST LAP... CLINT HAS ***STYLE!***

THAT'S ***NOTHIN'!*** IF I WERE DRIVIN' I'D BE WINNING BY AT LEAST ***TWICE*** THE MARGIN... CURTIS HAS ***NO*** GUTS!

FOR 3 FLEETING HOURS CLINT DOWNSHIFTS, UPSHIFTS, BRAKES, ACCELERATES AND FIGHTS THE WHEEL AROUND CORNERS AS HE CONTINUES TO LEAD THE FIELD!

PIT STOP TIME TO CHANGE DRIVERS AND MARTY SNELL PREPARES TO TAKE OVER ..

WE'VE GOT A ***10 SECOND*** EDGE, SO KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK, MARTY!

I'LL ***DOUBLE*** THE MARGIN ON THE FIRST LAP!

31

THERE HE GOES... I KNEW WHEN I PICKED ***YOU TWO***, I HAD A ***WINNING*** COMBINATION!

I ***HOPE*** YOU'RE RIGHT, SIR...

CLINT CURTIS

END OF PART 1...

CAR HATER PART II

MARTY SNELL IMMEDIATELY BEGINS TO **HOT SHOE** IT!

I'M GOING TO SHOW BUCK BUCKLEY WHAT A **REAL** DRIVER LOOKS LIKE... I'M **PUSHIN'** THIS HEAP TO THE **LIMIT!**

SNELL SLAMS THRU THE GEARS WITH **MERCILESS ABANDON!**

HE SPOTS AN OPENING IN THE UPCOMING TRAFFIC... WITHOUT HESITATION HE **BARRELS THRU** AND NARROWLY SLIPS BY...

D-529

SUDDENLY, MORE TRAFFIC LOOMS AHEAD AND THIS TIME THERE IS **NO OPENING!**

SNELL HITS THE BRAKES **HARD!**

THE BACK WHEELS BREAK LOOSE AND WITH TRACTION GONE, THE **MATRA** DRIFTS, UNCONTROLLED TO THE DANGEROUS **SAND PILE** THAT BORDERS THE OUTSIDE OF THE COURSE!

THE CAR'S BOTTOM IS SCRAPING AND THE WHEELS ARE ***DIGGIN' IN!***

I'VE GOT TO FREE MYSELF FROM THIS MOUND, ***FAST***, OR I'M ***FINISHED!***

I'M PUTTIN' MY ***FOOT*** INTO IT!

THE WHEELS SPIN ***WILDLY*** IN THE LOOSE SAND, BUT THE CAR DOES NOT MOVE...

WITH THE MOTOR PULLING NO LOAD, THE RPM'S SOAR HIGH OVER THE RED DANGER LINE!

THE MILL ***SHUDDERS*** UNDER THE MERCILESS REVVING... AN INTERNAL ***EXPLOSION*** SEEMS IMMINENT, BUT ***SUDDENLY***, THE CAR BREAKS FREE OF THE SAND TRAP AND BOLTS BACK ONTO THE COURSE!

VROOM

AUTO LIT

THE MATRA CHARGES DOWN THE SHORT STRAIGHT WITH SEEMINGLY NO ILL EFFECTS, BUT AS SNELL BRAKES FOR THE NEXT TURN, WHITE SMOKE **BILLOWS** FROM THE HEADERS...

THE MILL IS SICK AND COULD GO ANY MINUTE... I'D BETTER TURN THIS **JUNKER** OVER TO CURTIS, FAST, AND LET **HIM** TAKE THE BLAME!

I THINK I SPRAINED MY BACK A BIT, COULD USE A RUB DOWN... BUT THE CAR'S FINE, **RUNNIN'** LIKE A DREAM...

YOU HAD A LITTLE SPIN AT THE SAND PILE, IS EVERYTHING OKAY?

YOU HAVEN'T HAD MUCH REST, CLINT, BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE OVER AGAIN, SO **HOP TO IT!**

YES, SIR...

I KNEW CO-DRIVIN' WITH SNELL WOULD HAVE ITS PROBLEMS, BUT I DID COUNT ON HIM TAKIN' HIS **FULL TURN** BEHIND THE WHEEL... HMM, I WONDER IF HE GAVE THE **REAL** REASON FOR THAT UNSCHEDULED STOP...

CLINT POURS IT ON, THE CAR RESPONDS WELL AND AFTER SEVERAL LAPS, CLINT HAS PUSHED HIMSELF BACK INTO THE **LEAD!**

CONTINUED AFTER FOLLOWIN

CLINT HAS THE NUMBER ONE SPOT LOCKED UP, WHEN, SUDDENLY, THAT AWFUL TELLTALE WHITE SMOKE **SHOOTS** OUT OF THE EXHAUST STACKS...

WHITE SMOKE AND THE OIL PRESSURE'S **DROPPIN'!**

COMPRESSION'S GONE, I'M **LOSIN' SPEED!** I'VE **LUNCHED** IT!

MOMENTS LATER, CLINT DEJECTEDLY ABANDONS THE MATRA BY THE WAYSIDE...

SNELL'S UNEXPECTED TURN OVER, PLUS THE BLOWN ENGINE... COINCIDENCE MAYBE? **TREACHERY** MORE LIKELY!

SNELL SPOTS CLINT APPROACHING THE PITS AFTER A **LONG** WALK AND SENSES CLINT'S THOUGHTS, DECIDES THAT THE BEST DEFENSE IS A QUICK OFFENSE...

YOU **BLEW** IT, CURTIS, WE HAD IT LOCKED UP AND **YOU BLEW IT!**

DON'T TRY AND PASS THE BLICK, **CREEP**, YOU'RE THE GUILTY ONE AND...

SNELL

LIAR! HOW DARE YOU ACCUSE ME?! I'LL WARP YOUR SKULL FOR THAT!

YOU SURE CAN TALK A GOOD FIGHT! TOO BAD YOU CAN'T DELIVER!

HOLD IT, BOTH OF YOU! I'LL DECIDE WHO'S THE GUILTY ONE!

I THINK THE MILL WAS OVER REVVED AND SOON AS WE PICK UP THE CAR, I'LL CHECK THE TACHOGRAPH AND FIND OUT WHO'S RESPONSIBLE... AND WHEN I DO, IT'S THE AXE FOR HIM!

LATER... HERE, LOOK AT IT, YOURSELF, CLINT... THE TACHOGRAPH DISC SHOWS MY SUSPICIONS WERE RIGHT... IT SHOWS THE EXACT RPM'S PLUS THE TIME OF THE OVER REVVING... MARTY WILL NEVER DRIVE FOR ME AGAIN...

HIS LACK OF RESPECT FOR A FINELY TUNED MACHINE LED TO HIS DOWNFALL... I GUESS AUTO RACING HAS NO PLACE FOR A CAR HATER...

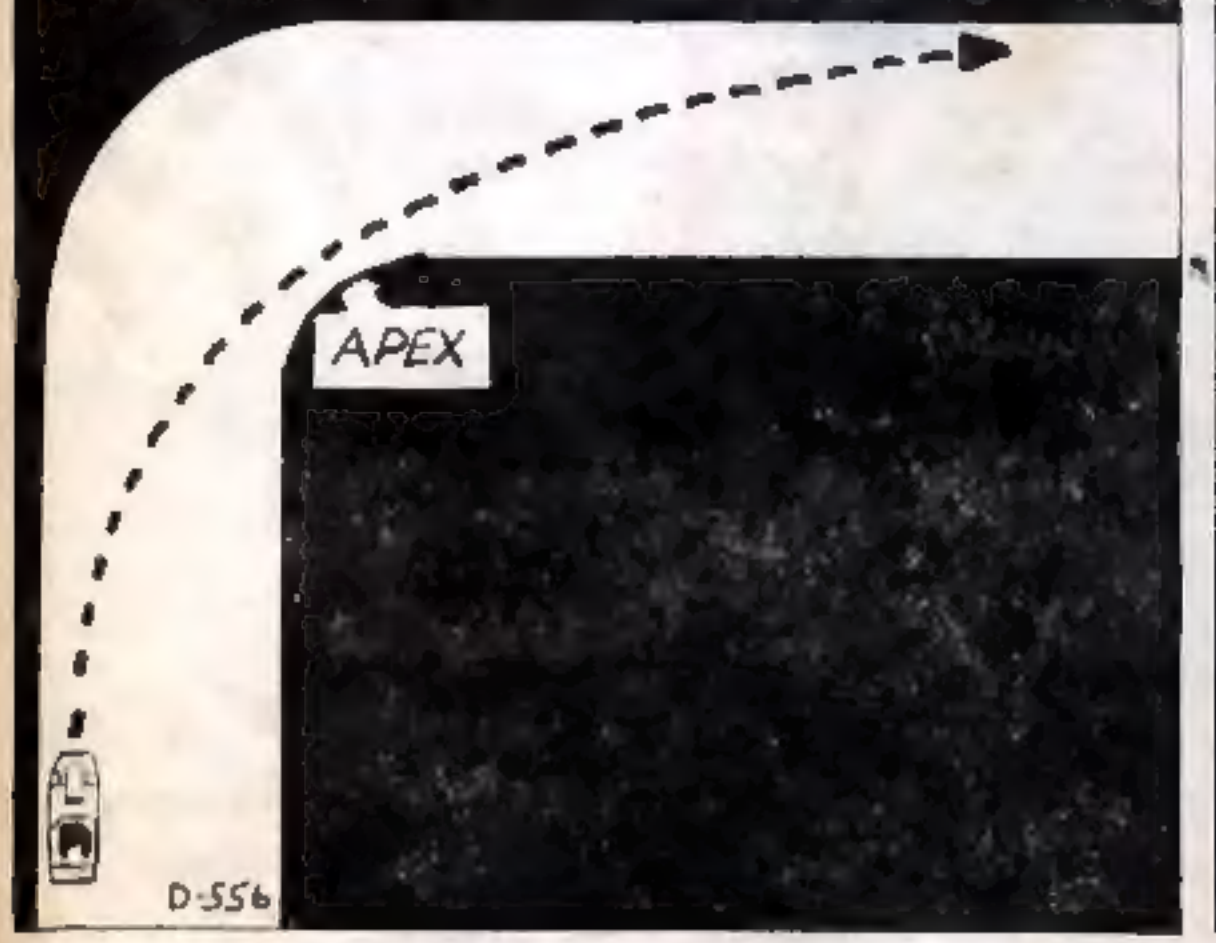
END

BEST LINE

THE **CORNER** IS WHERE THEY SEPARATE THE **MEN** FROM THE **BOYS** AND THE **MEN** ALWAYS TAKE THE **BEST LINE** WHENEVER POSSIBLE... CHOOSING THE BEST LINE GAINS PRECIOUS FRACTIONS OF A SECOND... TAKING THE WRONG LINE LOSES TIME... THIS IS WHERE RACES ARE USUALLY WON OR LOST, IT'S AS SIMPLE AS THAT...

THE FAST DOWNHILL BEND SEEN HERE SHOWS THE CAR IN SUCCESSIVE CORNERING STAGES... STARTING FROM THE REAR, THE FIRST CAR **BRAKES**, AS THE NEXT CAR **DOWNSHIFTS**... THE THIRD CAR **RELEASES** THE **BRAKE** AND POSITIONS FOR LINE ACROSS APEX... THE FOURTH CAR, WHILE DRIFTING, **POWERS OUT!**

CORNERS VARY GREATLY, FROM SUPER-FAST BANKED TURNS TO 20 MPH HAIRPINS... THE ILLUSTRATION SHOWS THE PROPER LINE THRU A BASIC CORNER... ENTER WIDE, CROSS CLOSE TO THE APEX AND EXIT WIDE...



THE HAIRPIN CORNER SHOWS 2 LINES... THE SLOW LINE APPROACH IS BAD, DRIVER WILL LOSE MUCH TIME THRU THE TURN... DRIVER USING FAST LINE WILL GAIN SECONDS THRU TURN AND BE IN EXCELLENT POSITION FOR FAST EXIT!